SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" May I know whether the attention of the Government was drawn particularly to the recruitment of District Munsifs? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" All aspects of recruitment were brought to my notice and adverted to in detail."

Supply of bad quality rice in Palghat taluk.

* 388-J *Q.*—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any complaints from the consumers and producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies of Palghat taluk about the bad quality of rice supplied for distribution through ration shops; and

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, what action the Government have taken on those complaints?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative. A representation was, however, received from 'the Palghat Chamber of Commerce' complaining about the bad quality of rice supplied in the ration shops in Palghat and it was enquired into. The enquiry revealed that the rice under reference was received from Tadepalligudem and that it was *red* in appearance as it was not polished. It was neither weevilled nor in any way infested. It was also found that the rice when cooked did not give any bad smell as in the case of bad rice. As it was in good condition and as it did not contain any dirt particles or dust, the District Supply Officer, Kozhikode, did not withdraw the rice from the ration shops. The Government agreed with the District Supply Officer's report which was endorsed by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) and dropped the matter."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" ഈ അരി പാകം ചെയ്താൽ കഴമ്പുപോലെയാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അതു ആരും വാങ്ങാതെ ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ കൂടിക്കിടക്കുകയാണ്. അതു തിരിയെ എടുക്കാൻ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന് ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ ? അരിയുടെ സാമ്പിൾ എന്റെ കൈവശമുണ്ട്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിക്ക് പരിശോധിക്കാം."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" These samples are very easily obtained. I do not know wherefrom they are obtained. I understand the same sample is shown everywhere. Apart from that, the main objection was about the colour of the rice. I do agree that red has to be avoided either in politics or in rice quality. (Laughter.) I have been of late receiving complaints that there is a certain amount of small quantity of bad rice going about everywhere. That is being taken advantage of for making complaints everywhere that the rice supplied is very bad. I am looking into this matter and I have already issued specific instructions that the matter should be looked into immediately and when-

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ever or wherever there was any old stock, it should be disposed of one way or the other so that the standing complaint may not be made by hon. Members and by members of the public."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" I have before me copies of letters and resolutions sent by the Palghat Producer-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Society to the District Supply Officer and to the Collector of Malabar regarding the bad quality of rice. I have also got a copy of the telegrams sent by them. The Minister now says that the Government have not received any complaint except from the Palghat Chamber of Commerce. I want to know wnether the complaints sent to the Collector of Malabar and the District Supply Officer were not forwarded to the Government and whether the Government have not looked into those complaints? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The specific question was, whether the Government have received any complaints. I said I have not received any complaint. When complaints are made to the District Collector or the District Supplies Officer, they are also promptly looked into. As a matter of fact, it is not necessary for them to send those complaints to the Government. In fact, when these complaints or representations are made to the local officers, they will be looked into more promptly. As I have already informed the House, specific instructions have been issued by me that this matter should be immediately looked into and wherever there were old stocks, they should be disposed of immediately."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" വടക്കെ മലബാറിൽ കതിരൂർ പി. സി. സി. സൊസൈററിയിൽ അല്പം ജനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങാതിരുന്ന അരി വീണ്ടും വാങ്ങാൻ നിർബ്ബന്ധിക്കുകയും അതിലേക്കു ഉത്തരവു പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയുന്നു. അതിനെ തടയാൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് നടപടി എടുക്കുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sorry I am unable to follow this brand of Malayalam."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" മൂന്നുമാസത്തിലധികം സ്റ്റാക്കിലിരിക്കുന്ന അരിയുടെ പോഷകാംശം കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുമെന്നാണു് പറയുന്നതു്. ദയവുചെയ്തു് മൂന്നുമാസത്തിലധികം സ്റ്റാക്കിലിരുന്ന അരി വിതരണം ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കാൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ഉത്തരവു പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുമോ ? "

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" I am translating the question put by hon. Member Sri Madhavan Nambiar without prejudice to my right to put a supplementary question on the same subject on my own behalf. (Laughter.) This is what the hon. Member wants to know : In view of the fact that at the end of three months, the nutritive value of rice would considerably deteriorate, will the Government give instructions to the concerned authorities that stocks which are more than three months' old should not be allowed to be sold through ration shops? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not concede the point made by the hon. Member that the nutritive value of three months' old rice will diminish or deteriorate. I know after a certain period, not after three months, but after five or six months, deterioration sets in in the quality of

rice. That is why I have issued instructions to the authorities to see that these stocks are disposed of as early as possible. Whenever we import rice from outside, especially from the Andhra area, there is likely to be trouble. If the people of Malabar locally produce the rice that they require, they need not have to depend upon such Andhra rice."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that on account of deficiencies in the nutritive standards of the foodgrains supplied to the people of Malabar, dysentery, cholera and other diseases have become widespread . . ?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I shall get the Health department to give a comparative list of cholera cases throughout the State. It will be seen that the claims of Malabar in this regard are not as correct as they appear to be."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" It only means that the Government are neglecting other districts also. (Laughter.)

" My point is that in view of the malnutrition or I should say in view of the fact that the Government have thrust upon the people of Malabar as a New Year gift this atrociously inferior and unwholesome rice, a sample of which I showed to the Hon. Minister yesterday, the people are attacked by ever so many diseases. Will the Government come forward to help these people from out of their difficulties in this regard?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, with your permission let me try to tell hon. Members some science. The more nutritious a grain is, the more easily will it get deteriorated. It is a fact therefore that in the unpolished rice which has vitamins more weevils are attracted. We should not confuse the question of nutrition with the question of deterioration. The more nutritious an article is the more liable it is for early deterioration. Non-nutritious stuff can be preserved for a long time."

9-30 a.m. SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" The Hon. the Minister for Food said that he had issued instructions that this bad quality rice should be disposed of one way or the other. This answer is very vague. We would like to know whether these instructions mean that the authorities concerned should compel the people to take this rice or it should be disposed of in any other manner."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We are even prepared to put the rice in the manure pit."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The fact of the matter is that the Hon. the Minister is under a colour complex and so he says that it is merely red. Apart from that, the rice that is supplied is very unwholesome and infested and so bad that it is uneatable. Of course, the Chief Minister might say that if it is so bad people would not buy it. But I say that the people are so

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abjectly poor that they cannot buy rice in the free market and so resort to fair price shops. Therefore, may I request the Hon. the Minister for Food to issue immediate instructions to stop issue of such rice which is not rice but an invitation to diseases?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I was making the remark that if the sample shown to us was the kind of rice supplied to people all over, in Malabar, then no human being would take it and that there would be no demand in the fair price shops for more quantities of rice. It is not always that the sample produced is the correct sample. People choose samples."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்தமாதிரி கெடுதலான அரிசியை மலபாருக்கு சப்ளை செய்தால் அங்குள்ளவர்கள் ரேஷனே வேண்டாம் என்று கூறுவதற்காகவா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It is in order to increase production of rice." (Laughter.)

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In view of the fact that the existing stocks of rice in Malabar are not consumable according to the allegations made in the House and in view of the fact that these stocks were imported from the Andhra area, will the Government take precautions at least in future—because we are going to import some thousands of tons of rice from Andhra—to see that they import the right type of rice and avoid the mistake of importing bad rice at least in the interests of avoiding a volley of questions in the Assembly on the subject?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I would ask the hon. Member not to be the sole repository of anti-Andhra feeling." (Laughter.)

SRI A. APPU :—" For a long time we have been getting bad rice from outside the State, from places like Orissa, Siam, etc. Will the Government be pleased to change the sources of supply to places wherefrom we can get good rice?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We shall consider the suggestion but we have to take into account the cost also."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. the Chief Minister and the Hon. the Minister for Food were saying that by looking at the sample one could not conclude that the quality was bad. The implication is that they are questioning the *bona fides* of Members who have brought samples. Will the Food Minister issue instructions to the various P.C.C. societies through which rice is supplied to the people of Malabar to send samples of rice available for distribution this week to him so that he may be convinced that this rice is not eatable?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have made arrangements for samples of rice from various centres to be sent to Government every month. We scrutinize the samples and if there is anything bad with them, we immediately issue

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instructions to the authorities to stop supply of this rice. This has been done for a long time and in spite of that there are a few cases of supply of bad quality rice and I do not know where the fault lies. That is why I asked the department yesterday to look into the matter after representations had been made in that behalf by certain hon. Members in this House.''

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—'' Can these complaints be put an end to if the zones are abolished? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' The zonal system has nothing to do with this because this is with reference to supply of rice at controlled price through Government agency. That is not going to alter the pattern in any way.''

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Improvement of minor ports.

35 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government applied to the Government of India to advance a loan towards the improvement and repairs of the minor ports in our State;

(*b*) what are the ports to be improved and repaired;

(*c*) what is the estimated cost of improvements and repairs to each of the ports; and

(*d*) what is the amount sanctioned by the Government of India to the State Government and the interest charged per annum?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*)—

	Original estimate.	Revised estimate.
	RS.	RS.
Cuddalore	1,19,000	1,19,000
Nagapattinam	2,54,200	2,54,200
Kozhikode	3,65,000	3,18,000
Mangalore	3,30,000	3,30,000
Tuticorin	9,70,000	9,70,000
Total ..	20,38,200	19,91,200

(*d*) Against a total estimated cost of Rs. 24,78,200 for 23 schemes (19 in Madras State and 4 in Andhra State), the ceiling limit of central assistance by way of loan has been fixed at Rs. 10·39 lakhs. The total cost of the 19 schemes in the Madras State is estimated at Rs. 20,38,200 (subsequently revised to Rs. 19,91,200).